



Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in New Jersey: July 2016 Updates

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Agenda

- Overview and timeline
- Department work to date
- NJ stakeholder engagement approach



Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

- Reauthorization of 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) addressed inequities for poor and minority students
- Signed into law December 2015
- Requires states to hold schools and districts accountable for improving outcomes for students and closing achievement gaps
- Provides greater flexibility than was provided under the No Child Left Behind ESEA reauthorization

ESSA provides one mechanism for the NJ Department of Education to ensure all of our children have equitable access to educational resources so they may achieve these goals.



Expected Dates for ESSA Activities

Date (expected)	Federal	State	District
School Year 2016-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Federal regulations and guidance continuously released	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ESEA Waiver expires (August)NJ develops and submit state plan in collaboration with stakeholdersContinue to provide targeted support Priority/Focus schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Districts spend under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) rulesPriority/Focus school status remains the same as in 2015-16
Fall 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Final federal regulations posted (expected)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Collaborate with stakeholders to develop a state planEnsure state processes, guidance, and data collections reflect changes from ESSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Districts receive initial spending guidance from NJDOE (Nov)Districts develop plans in collaboration with stakeholders
Spring 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">US Department of Education reviews and approves state plans submitted in March or July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Plan to submit state plan to US Department of Education by March 6* following public comment period	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Districts continue to receive updated spending guidance from NJDOEDistricts receive allocations from NJDOE and apply for grants
School Year 2017-18		<ul style="list-style-type: none">New state plan goes into effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Districts spend under ESSA rules/formulas

* NJDOE plan as of July 13, 2016, subject to change pending final federal regulations



Rulemaking & Guidance from the US Department of Education (USED)

Proposed Federal Regulations	Announced/Released Guidance
<p>Released May 31, 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accountability• Data reporting• State plans <p>Negotiated in Spring, released July 6, 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Computer adaptive assessments• Assessments for upper level 8th grade math• Alternative assessments for students with severe cognitive disabilities• Inclusion of English Learners and students with disabilities in the assessment system• Academic assessments in other languages spoken by a significant portion of the student population <p>Not negotiated, but also released July 6, 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• States authority to develop innovative assessments	<p>Released in February & updated in May and June of 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• FAQs on transition to ESSA <p>Released in June, 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students in foster care <p>Forthcoming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Homeless children and youth• English Learners (ELs) / Title III



NJDOE Actions

- Providing updates to districts about ESEA implementation for school year 2016-17 (see Appendix)
- Establish 16 internal working groups to
 - Review all sections of the law, regulations, and guidance to determine implications for New Jersey
 - Align work across multiple offices and divisions of the Department
 - Identify key policy questions and operational changes
- Scheduled multiple fall sessions to provide districts with overview of implications for 2017-18; Planning for additional sessions in spring
- Updating operational procedures not affected by federal regulations or fall stakeholder engagement (i.e. necessary grant submission system updates)
- Began stakeholder engagement (see following slides)



Engagement Commitment

2016 Jun Jul Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun 2017

Listening and Learning/Identify Policy Questions

Feedback on Specific Proposals/Policies

Inform and Explain Implementation Details

NJDOE will provide opportunities for interested groups and individuals to:

Discuss how NJ state and district may best implement specific areas of existing and new federal law. Build on ongoing community engagement about standards, assessments, educator policies and strategic plan

Provide targeted feedback, through focus groups and public comment, on NJDOE proposals for initial implementation (2017-18) and beyond

Receive updated and accurate information about implementing ESSA and share best district practices for implementation plans



Listening and Learning

- **Conversations:** Hosting or attending conversations with representatives of community and educator groups to help identify policy questions
- **Survey:** Received over 4,800 responses about what school communities want to know about their public schools
- **Public listening sessions:** Three regional meetings

North	South	Central
September 6th 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. College of St. Elizabeth 2 Convent Rd Morristown, NJ 07690 Dolan Performance Hall	September 8th 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Rowan College at Gloucester County 1400 Tanyard Rd Sewell, NJ 08080 Lecture Room 430	September 14th 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Middlesex County Vocational and Technical Schools 112 Rues Lane East Brunswick, NJ 08816 Auditorium



Opportunities for Feedback

- **NJDOE is planning to or will continue to leverage:**
 - **Topical group meetings:** Convening around specific ESSA policy questions (e.g., 21st Century Schools, Direct Student Services)
 - **Outreach to existing NJDOE advisory groups:** Using expertise of advisors already in place (e.g., Bilingual Advisory Group, ESEA Advisory Group)
 - **Focus groups:** Scheduling educator and parent groups to provide feedback on School Performance Reports
 - **Email and surveys on website:** Inviting feedback on specific topics as well as quality of stakeholder engagement, ability access to materials, helpfulness of website, etc.



Continuing the Conversation

- For updated notifications, resources and additional opportunities for engagement, **see NJ Department of Education ESSA Website**
<http://www.state.nj.us/education/ESSA/>
- For questions, concerns, recommendations, requests for resources or opportunities to engage, **contact NJ ESSA Team:** essa@doe.state.nj.us



Appendix



Impacts to Districts for 2016-17

- Most elements remain the same as in 2015-16, including funding formulas/usages, with a few notable exceptions:
 - No Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO) or Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAO) required.
 - Freeze on Focus/Priority schools (no exits).
 - Note: USED required decision to freeze or create new lists by March 1, 2016; NJ did not have necessary data for evaluating list status by this time and thus had to freeze. The Department will evaluate status of Focus/Priority schools as data becomes available to ensure appropriate recognition and support during ESSA transition time.
 - No federal Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) requirement. However, teachers must still be certified. See [certification HQT guidance](#) for details